



Online Safety Newsletter May 2025

Sherwood Junior School Online Safety Newsletter

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Cyberbullying



What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is when someone uses the internet or digital technology to upset, hurt, or intimidate others. It can happen through unkind messages, nasty comments, or sharing mean content. Because it takes place online, it can happen at any time—day or night—and on many different platforms, such as messaging apps like WhatsApp and Snapchat, social media like Instagram and TikTok, or even while playing online games.

Here are a few examples of how cyberbullying might appear:

- Sending mean or threatening messages
- Spreading rumours or sharing private information
- Excluding someone from an online group or chat
- Posting hurtful or embarrassing content about someone

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

If your child tells you they are being bullied online, stay calm and reassure them that it's not their fault. Let them know they did the right thing by speaking up.

Here are some steps you can take:

- **Keep a record** of any upsetting messages or posts
- **Speak to the school** so they are aware and can support your child

- **Help your child block or report** the person responsible
- **Review privacy settings** on your child's apps or accounts
- **Set up parental controls** to help manage their online activity

Need more help?

There are lots of great websites that offer advice and support for parents about online bullying:

- [Childnet – Online Bullying Advice](#)
- Anti-Bullying Alliance – Support for Parents and Carers

Working together, we can help keep our children safe online.

Wonderlab+



Are you looking for something fun to do online with your child?

The Science Museum group have a wide array of activities, games and quizzes on their website:

<https://wonderlabplus.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/home>

Minecraft

A Parent's Guide to Minecraft

What is Minecraft?

Minecraft is a popular video game where players build and explore virtual worlds made of blocks. It encourages creativity, problem-solving, and exploration. There are two main modes your child can play:

- **Creative Mode** – Players have unlimited resources and can build freely without any dangers.

- **Survival Mode** – Players must collect resources, find food, and protect themselves from enemies (called "mobs"). This mode includes some mild violence and scary creatures, so it may not be suitable for all children.

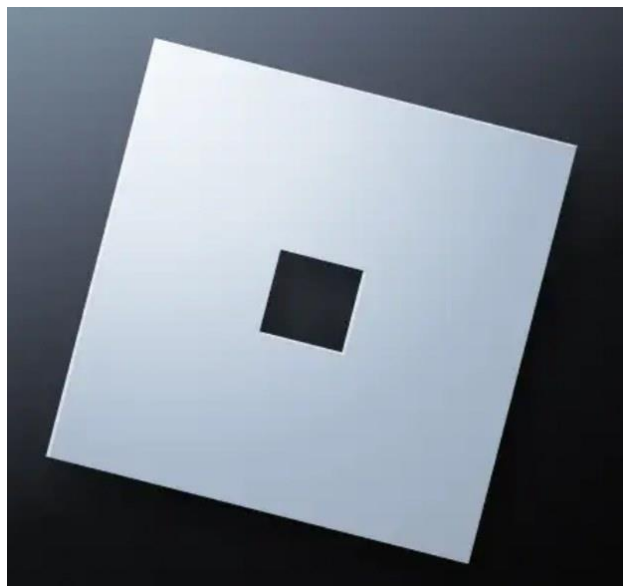
Things to be aware of

- **Multiplayer Options** – Minecraft can be played online with others, and players can chat to each other during the game. It's important to check who your child is playing with.
- **In-App Purchases** – Players can buy extras like skins (character outfits). To avoid accidental spending, make sure purchases are either disabled or require a password or PIN.
- **Parental Controls** – Make sure the appropriate parental controls are set up both in the game and on the device your child is using.

Find out more:

- [Minecraft – Parental Controls Guide](#)
- [Parent Zone – Minecraft Advice](#)

Roblox Updates



What is Roblox?

Roblox is an online platform where players can either play games created by others or create their own. It's free to download and can be played on phones, tablets, computers, and gaming

consoles. While the platform is fun and creative, it also offers **in-game purchases and subscription options**, so it's important to manage settings carefully.

What should I be aware of?

Most of the games on Roblox are **user-generated**, which means content can vary and may not always be age-appropriate. That's why it's important to **check what your child is playing** and set up **parental controls** to help keep their experience safe.

Roblox is rated **PEGI Parental Guidance**, which means there is no fixed age rating due to the wide range of content created by users.

New Parental Control Features

Roblox has introduced helpful new tools to give parents more control over their child's activity:

1. **Friend Blocking** – You can now block specific friends from sending direct messages.
2. **Experience Blocking** – You can block particular games (called “experiences”) that you don't want your child to play.
3. **Top Game Insights** – See a list of the 20 games your child has spent the most time on over the past week.

Want to learn more?

- [Roblox: New Parental Controls \(April 2025\)](#)
- [Roblox Parent Guide](#)

With the right settings in place, Roblox can be a fun and imaginative platform for children. Always take time to check in and talk to your child about what they're playing online.

JusTalk



What is JusTalk? – A Parent’s Guide

About the App

JusTalk is a communication app that allows users to **video chat, call, and send messages**. There are two versions of the app:

- **JusTalk** – Rated 12+ on the App Store
- **JusTalk Kids** – Rated 4+ on the App Store

Both versions offer a **free basic service**, but users can unlock extra features by paying for a **premium subscription**.

What parents should know

Even though the app may seem age-appropriate based on its rating, **there are still some risks to be aware of**, especially when children are using the regular JusTalk version, which may allow contact with strangers.

It’s important to:

- Monitor your child’s use of the app
- Check privacy settings and who they’re chatting with
- Decide whether the Kids version is more suitable for your child
- Avoid premium features unless you’re confident they’re necessary and safe

For a more detailed overview of the risks, visit:

👉 [Ineqe Safeguarding Group – JusTalk Guide](#)

Top Tip: Always talk to your child about who they're communicating with online and encourage them to tell you if anything makes them feel uncomfortable.

Silver Scam Checker



What is Ask Silver?

Ask Silver is a **free and easy-to-use tool** that helps people stay safe from online scams. Anyone with a smartphone can use it!

If you ever receive a message, email, or link that seems suspicious, you can simply:

1. **Take a screenshot**
2. **Upload it to Ask Silver**
3. Get a quick response letting you know if it's likely to be a scam or safe to open

It's a great way to **protect yourself and your family** from online fraud.

👉 Learn more and try it out here: www.getsafeonline.org/asksilver

PEGI Ratings and gaming



During Safer Internet Day, some of the children were talking about the games they play at home. They were also talking about the age ratings of these games. Here is a reminder of what PEGI ratings are and what the ratings of some of the most played games are.

The Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system is a widely recognised framework that helps consumers, especially parents, make informed decisions about video game content. Established in 2003, PEGI provides age ratings and content descriptors to indicate the suitability of a game for different age groups.

Understanding PEGI Ratings:

PEGI ratings are divided into five age categories:

- **PEGI 3:** Suitable for all age groups. Games in this category should not contain any sounds or images that might frighten young children. Very mild forms of violence in a comical context are acceptable.
- **PEGI 7:** Includes content that may be slightly frightening for younger children. Very mild forms of violence are permitted.
- **PEGI 12:** Features more graphic violence towards fantasy characters and non-realistic violence towards human-like characters. May include mild bad language and sexual innuendo.
- **PEGI 16:** Depicts realistic violence or sexual activity. The use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs may be present, along with more extreme bad language.
- **PEGI 18:** Reserved for games with gross violence, motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters. Explicit sexual activity and the glamorization of illegal drug use may also be present.

In addition to age ratings, PEGI provides content descriptors indicating specific types of content, such as violence, bad language, fear, gambling, sex, drugs, discrimination, and in-game purchases.

Why Are PEGI Ratings Important?

PEGI ratings play a crucial role in safeguarding children from exposure to inappropriate content. By adhering to these guidelines, parents can ensure that the games their children play are suitable for their developmental stage. The ratings also promote responsible gaming habits and help prevent exposure to themes that may be harmful or disturbing to younger audiences.

PEGI Ratings of Popular Video Games:

Here are the PEGI ratings for some of the most played video games:

- **Fortnite:** PEGI 12
- **Minecraft:** PEGI 7
- **FIFA 25:** PEGI 3
- **Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III:** PEGI 18
- **Grand Theft Auto V:** PEGI 18
- **League of Legends:** PEGI 12
- **Rocket League:** PEGI 3
- **The Sims 2 Anniversary Collection:** PEGI 12
- **Roblox:** PEGI 7+

By paying attention to PEGI ratings and content descriptors, parents and guardians can make informed choices, ensuring a safe and enjoyable gaming experience for their children.

Keeping up with technology




We know how quickly things change online—it can feel almost impossible to keep up with what our children are doing! New apps, games, and trends appear all the time, and it’s normal to feel a bit out of the loop.

The **UK Safer Internet Centre** has published a helpful article with **practical tips for parents and carers** on how to stay informed and involved in your child’s digital life.

The advice includes:

- Simple ways to start conversations about online activity
- How to build trust so your child feels comfortable sharing
- Where to find reliable information about new apps and games

 Read the full article here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers/things-change-so-fast-online-its-hard-to-keep-up-with-what-my-child-is-doing>

Contact Us



If you have any questions regarding online safety, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Burton.

Visit us on the web at www.sherwood.notts.sch.uk

Follow and like us on [Facebook](#)